

our father and elder brothers in the ministry lend no countenance,
but the reverse, to the discussion of the subject. 2^d. I have been
told, that the great body of our Societies are decidedly averse to their
ministers' taking any part in the Anti-Slavery movement. I do not,
myself, feel sure on this point, where the truth lies. I know
that the opposition is strong, however, & sometimes heated. The
abolitionists, among us, are for the most part the coolest ones we have

John H. Colburn
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I suspect I may also name, as one obstacle, a want of faith in
the power of the truth to accomplish the mighty work of Emancipation;
& again, an occasional fear that they, ^(ministers) may be the instruments of a means
of harm rather than benefit to the Slave.

I wrote you, a few days since.

With love to Cousin L. & your children,

Very affectionately
y^r. cousin & bro. Saml. May.

likely abolitionists. They are both for shaking off the yoke of the sin of Slavery; but Mr. May, probably from being of a more ardent temperament, goes somewhat farther, perhaps, than his much-respected elder brother A. would go, in desiring immediate action, & the adoption of decisive measures.

Mr. Alden is an excellent man, & is truly an Anti-Slavery man, but he feels sorely beset by the difficulties, of all sorts, which lie in the way of the freedom of the Slaves; & this prevents much activity.

Of Mr. Clarke's opinion on Slavery, at this present time, I know nothing. Two years ago - less, I think - he avowed Anti-Sl. sentiments.

With regard to the other brethren - excellent men as they doubtless are - they lack yet this one thing, - a hearty desire for the overthrow of the most iniquitous system of sinning that Beelzebub condescends to patronize. [This is fine language, truly, for one who has blamed the Abolitionists for hard words.]

4. You wish to know why those, who are Anti-Sl. at heart, do not join some Society. I cannot say, with certainty. Generally, the temper in wh. those Societies have ^{very frequently} ~~for the most part~~ acted has been such as they could not reconcile with the X^r. Spirit, & the precepts of X^t. - Now this is too extensive a topic, for the far end of a letter.

5. About their preaching, making speeches, &c. Mr. Alden, Mr. Lumsan, Mr. May, have preached more or less on the subject. Whether any other has preached, or otherwise spoken publicly, ~~for~~ advocating the Anti-Slavery principle, I cannot say, - I know not. I think Mr. Allen of N. must have done so, because he never cloaks his opinions, & they are strongly on the A-Sl. side.

6. Hindrances to efficient action, on the part of ministers:

I do not know that I entirely understand what points you chiefly desire information under this head. I can say, for one ^{of} obstacle, that

2. I do not know of an individual, among the foregoing, as belonging to an Anti-Slavery Society. Possibly, Mr. Farr, and Mr. Lamson of Berlin, are members of an Anti-Sl. Socy. But I do not know that they are. - I believe I may say decidedly that no other one is connected with any Anti-Sl. Society.

3. "Who" you ask "if not members, &c. do yet fully & heartily adopt the principles of immediate emancipation, without expatriation, as set forth in the Constitution of the Am. Anti-Sl. Society?"

This question comprises several points, and, on all accounts, is somewhat difficult to be answered. To answer it fully, I ought to know the exact state of mind of every man in question - whether ~~such~~ Abolitionists, & if so, how far? - or Colonizationists: &c. &c. &c. But I will do my best.

We have no thorough-going Abolitionist, I expect, according to your standard. { The following however may ~~be considered~~ be considered as acting Anti-Slavery men.

Mr. <u>Allen</u>	Northboro.	Mr. <u>Alden</u>	Brookfield
Mr. <u>Clarke</u>	Uxbridge	Mr. <u>May</u>	Leicester
Mr. <u>Lamson</u>	Berlin	Mr. <u>Stebbins</u>	Leominster
Mr. <u>Farr</u>	Harvard (not settl'd)		

These seven do not stand, by any means, on the same ground. ^{& Mr. Farr} Mr. Lamson (& possibly Mr. Stebbins) adopt, I think, in full, the principles & accord with the measures of the Amer. A. Sl. Socy.

Mr. Allen & Mr. May agree, I should think, in respecting I in adopting the great principles of ^{the} Abolitionists, but do not incline to join with them in approving ^{all} ~~what~~ they approve, & in imitating all they do. These two may be considered as tolerably

Leicester, Dec. 15. 1837.

PHELPS
MSS.

Rev. S. May, Leicester. (Unit)

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My dear Sir. To answer correctly & fully some of the questions in your last to me, I ought to see & converse with several of my brethren in this County. But as I am ~~not~~ ^{but a few of} expecting to see them, during the winter, I am probably as well able to give you answer now, as I shall be at any time for some months to come; and I will therefore give you, at once, the best information in my power.

Worcester Association

Worcester West Association

1. ✓ Aaron Banerdt, D.D. Worcester.
 ✓ Nath^l. Thayer, D.D. Lancaster.
 ✓ Isaac Allen Bolton.
 ✓ Joseph Allen Northboro'.
 ✓ Samuel Clarke Uxbridge.
 ✓ Peter Osgood Sterling.
 ✓ Calvin Lincoln Fitchburg.
 ✓ Alonzo Hill Worcester.
 ✓ Washington Gilbert Harvard.
 ✓ D. R. Lamson Berlin.
 ✓ Lem^l. May Leicester.
 ✓ R. P. Leavins Loominster.
 ✓ Casseus Palfrey Grafton.
 (Supplying, for the winter)

- ✓ James Thompson Barre.
 ✓ Eben^l. Wellington Templeton.
 ✓ Geo. R. Noyes Petersham.
 ✓ John Goldsbury Hardwick.
 ✓ Seth Alden Brookfield.
 Athol. *
 Hubbardston. *

* No settled Clergymen
in these towns.

Belonging to no Association
Southboro'. *

Besides the above ✓ Jonathan Farr resides at Harvard
 & Thos. R. Sullivan " " Worcester